

discussed in detail and named. *Ithaginis kuseri* is from northwestern Yunnan, while *I. cruentus affinis* is proposed for the bird of southern Sikkim, as contrasted with *I. cruentus cruentus* of Nepal and northern Sikkim.—W. S.

Oliver on The Geographic Relationships of the Birds of Lord Howe, Norfolk, and the Kermadec Islands.¹—In this interesting paper Mr. Oliver discusses the relationship of the avifauna of these three islands. His conclusions are that their affinity is clearly with New Zealand rather than with Australia, while the New Caledonian element that is present leads him to endorse the theory of a land bridge between the latter island and New Zealand, of which Lord Howe was a part and Norfolk Island but slightly separated. These two islands he would regard as forming one province of the New Zealand region while the Kermadecs he thinks should form a separate province, whose fauna is derived wholly from transoceanic migration, without any of the wingless Rails or other species of Lord Howe Island which apparently date from the time of the land bridge. Mr. Oliver cites examples outside of the avifauna in support of his views but it would be interesting to see how a detailed study of other groups of animals or plants would agree with them.—W. S.

Gladstone's The Vertebrate Fauna of Dumfriesshire.²—Mr. Gladstone's beautifully printed little book furnishes us with an annotated list of the vertebrates of his native county, which while largely of local interest is also a valuable work of reference for anyone interested in Scottish zoology. The birds number 224 species with 39 others reported on unsatisfactory evidence. An introduction dealing with the physical features of the region under consideration and a map, are valuable adjuncts to the Catalogue.—W. S.

Horsbrugh and Davies on The Game-Birds and Water-Fowl of South Africa.³—Part 2 of this attractive work is quite up to the standard of the first number already noticed in 'The Auk.' It includes plates and text of fourteen species of Francolin and three Quail—2 *Coturnix*, 1 *Excalfactoria*—and one Button Quail, *Turnix*. The account of the breeding of the last species, the male of which incubates the eggs and cares for the young, is especially interesting.—W. S.

¹ Geographic Relationships of the Birds of Lord Howe, Norfolk and the Kermadec Islands. By W. R. B. Oliver. Trans. New Zealand Inst., Vol. XLIV, 1911, pp. 214–221. June 10, 1912.

² A Catalogue of the Vertebrate Fauna of Dumfriesshire by Hugh S. Gladstone | M. A., F. R. S. E., F. Z. S., M. B. O. U. | Author of "The Birds of Dumfriesshire" | J. Maxwell & Son | Dumfries | 1912.

³ The Game-Birds and Water-Fowl of South Africa by Major Boyd Horsbrugh, with coloured plates by Sergeant C. G. Davies. Part 2. London, Witherby & Co. July 2nd, 1912.